

ERRATA.

- Page 4, line 7, for *overthow*, read *overthrow*.
7, line 38, for *emport*, read *import*.
29, line 31, for *defendant*, read *defendants*.
32, line 45, for *insiduious*, read *insidious*.
34, line 7, for *keep*, read *keeping*.
36, line 23, for *it is*, read *they are*.
39, line 9, for *two years ago*, read *more than five years ago*.
In the note at the bottom of page 40, for *No. I.* read *No. I. to XI.*
Page 42, line 32, for *his*, read *Dunn's*.
53, line 19, for *this man*, read *this man Dunn*.
55, line 43, for *A.* read *Q.*
In the note at the bottom of page 61, for *No. VIII.* read *No. XII.*
Page 69, line 36, for *twelfth*, read *twelfth*.
88, line 36, for *Mr. Ridgway*, read *Mr. Ridgway, jun.*
102, line 17, for *Mr. Jones*, read *Mr. Thomas Jones*.

ERRATA

Page 1. Line 1. "The first" should be "The first"
Page 2. Line 1. "The second" should be "The second"
Page 3. Line 1. "The third" should be "The third"
Page 4. Line 1. "The fourth" should be "The fourth"
Page 5. Line 1. "The fifth" should be "The fifth"
Page 6. Line 1. "The sixth" should be "The sixth"
Page 7. Line 1. "The seventh" should be "The seventh"
Page 8. Line 1. "The eighth" should be "The eighth"
Page 9. Line 1. "The ninth" should be "The ninth"
Page 10. Line 1. "The tenth" should be "The tenth"

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HIGH TREASON !!

NARRATIVE

OF THE

ARREST,

Examinations before the Privy Council,

AND

IMPRISONMENT

OF

P. T. LEMAITRE,

ACCUSED OF BEING A PARTY IN THE

POP-GUN PLOT,

OR,

A PRETENDED PLOT

TO

KILL THE KING!

IN WHICH IS INTRODUCED

The Correspondence with the Privy Council, &c.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR P. T. LEMAITRE; AND SOLD BY
J. SMITH, AT THE POP-GUN, PORTSMOUTH
STREET, LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS.

1795.

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THE COURT'S PROCEEDINGS WITH THE PRISON COUNCIL, &c.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR T. T. LEMAITRE, AND SOLD BY
J. SMITH, AT THE POP-GUN, PORTSMOUTH
STREET, LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS.

1835.

Affassination of the King, &c.

TO those who read this narrative it is necessary to premise that the writer is now under twenty years of age, and that he should not have thought of intruding himself upon the public, if a charge of a most heinous nature had not been brought against him, which, in justice to himself, and to the character he has hitherto supported, and hopes to support through life, he is bound to refute.

A simple detail of facts will shew with what inhumanity he has been treated by the men in power in this nation and the absurdity of the pretext which made him a prisoner for thirty-two weeks in a horrid cell, and deprived a beloved mother of her existence.

On Saturday, September 27th, 1794, between the hours of seven and eight in the evening, a man knocked at the door of my cousin's house, and being informed I was within made a signal to six or seven more persons, who with him rushed into the house, and being informed that I was above stairs, seized an apprentice below, and shut him up in the lower shop, one of them remaining at the door with a pistol; whilst another detachment run up the front stairs with *Townsend*, emphatically called, the "*Swell Trap* of "*Bow-street office*," at their head, *Metcalf* the *spy* bringing up the rear. Whilst this was doing, my friends called

to me in French, that there were some persons come to take me; and I having equally the liberty of escaping by means of *back stairs* and the leads of the house, unlike Pitt, chose rather to take the honest *front* way, and unexpected and unprepared as this visit certainly was, opened the door, came forward and found the troop upon the top flight. They asked for Lemaitre—I told them I was the person they wanted, and begged them to wait till I put on some cloaths, as I was then in my working dress, having been employed at the furnace: I was only answered by oaths, and dragged down so forcibly that I was compelled to inform them I had some knowledge of walking alone. At the bottom of the stairs I saw Jealous and Upton; I spoke to Upton, but instead of any reply he turned towards the door, and kept at some distance. I then requested to see the *warrant* for my arrest, and was told by Jealous I should see it shortly, but “the *plot* which I had laid for others I should fall in myself.” They appeared now to be about to search for my papers, which made me demand, in a peremptory tone, a sight of the *warrant*: and Townsend in return claps a pistol to my head and swears “damn my blood I will blow your brains out if you say another word;” and at the same time instantly proceeded to search me, and tie my hands. This roused the indignation of one of my friends who asked what authority they had for using me in that manner; but the same *Pistolado* turning round swore “damn my eyes if I don’t fire among you if any one stirs.” I begged my friends not to be alarmed, his threat I assured them he knew better than to put into execution, and I requested that they would only attend to his proceedings. Metcalf had now a pistol put into his hands, and was proceeding with another (as I imagined) to seize my papers.

Upon this, and the *martial* appearance of my visitors, I could not refrain from asking Jealous whether they expected to be opposed by a regiment of *sans culottes*; he told me it was customary

customary on the apprehension of any one, and was nothing new to them. I next enquired, *upon what charge I was apprehended*, Jealous seemed much inclined to wave this question, but as I pressed him to answer, he told me on charge of a "Highway Robbery." I was now hurried by Jealous and Townsend in a very violent manner to a coach waiting at the end of the street, where thinking I was properly secured, the latter began in the most insolent manner calling me "a damned orator, violent wretch," &c. and this without the smallest provocation.

The coach stopped at Carpmeal's, the bunch of Grapes Bow street, and I had scarcely time to enquire whether my hands were to be unbound, when I was led from this house into the public office, and had no sooner entered than my hat was forced off my head by one of these attendant bullies. My stay here was of no considerable length, and no one spoke to me; I was conducted back to Carpmeal's, and was led up to the first floor, where after I had seen two doors locked upon me, I again repeated my request to have my hands unbound. To this they at length agreed, and as I thought they might now have received more humane orders, I repeated my request to see the warrant, but this was refused.

As I had been from the time I dined (two o'clock) without eating, I informed Jealous of it, and requested something for supper, but this was likewise refused. As the change from the hot reflection of a furnace to the damp of a cold and rainy evening, without being allowed any addition of apparel, rather discomposed me I laid myself on a sofa I found here, and shortly fell asleep; but this repose I had not long enjoyed, when *Townsend* awoke me to be again searched. As they had taken all they found upon me the first time, they of course added nothing to their stock, which I believe consisted (to their great astonishment) in a piece of brown paper, a child's marble, and

two pocket pieces. My small-cloaths having but one fob, without pockets, Townsend with surprise asked if I had no pockets. I asked in my turn, if he did not know that we *Sans culottes* were well contented to have even breeches. This however did not satisfy him ; after a strict, close, and rather *alarming* search about the *breech*, he repeated the question, and I coolly answered that it was his business to find, and not mine to discover ; upon which he went out of the room, and I again laid myself on the sofa, but was scarcely asleep when Jealous, who was by the door with a pistol in his hand, called out “ Do you live at your father’s “ or where you was taken ? ” I replied “ Yes ; ” upon which he repeated “ at your father’s or cousin’s ? ” but receiving no other answer than this, and the request that if any one went to my father’s they would be more civil than they had hitherto been, he desisted.

Finding myself still very chilly, I went to the fire, where Jealous likewise seated himself, and without loss of time began to *sound* me. He prefaced his views with an elegant description of ALL his Majesty’s *virtues, qualities, accomplishments, &c.* but finding this productive only of a few smiles, he charged me with having (as he expressed himself) “ Gone just a degree beyond the line,” and expressed much sorrow for the situation of so young a person. To all his menaces I replied only by a fit of laughter ; but he was proof against derision and no ways disconcerted. At about twelve that night I was conducted in a coach, by two *armed men* (who, to do them justice, did not *wanton*ly *insult* me) to Clerkenwell Bridewell, where I was informed I should sup. On our arrival at this prison, Aris, the keeper, was in bed, and I was told nothing could be had unless he rose, but as I never accommodated myself at the expence of another’s repose, I begged he might not be disturbed on my account. I was left in an apartment by myself,

myself, and was told I should be fetched the next morning at ten o'clock.

The persons who were left behind at my cousin's house were not, in ill behaviour, inferior to their principal. With pistols in their hands they mounted the stairs, enquired for my room, and searched every thing they could lay their hands on.

Here my cousin, who had been violently pushed down backwards upon the stairs, by Townsend, for having simply asked "What they were going to do with me," was struck with an exclamation from one of them, "Ah!" said he "this is something like it!"—A *bag of marbles*, a *tube*, and a *Gun* at the same moment struck their eyes. The bag of marbles and gun, the latter with a *tin* barrel it is true, had little the appearance of *service*, but might very justly be suspected as *models* for others more consistent with my *wicked designs*: and again, the *tube* (which required nothing but glasses to render it a compleat *telescope*) was about four feet in length, and, as may have been supposed, very properly constructed (in the manner of a pea-shooter) to pop out a *two pounder*.

My friends were alarmed at their *ghastly* aspects, silence reigned during this interval, but they soon collected sufficient resolution to advance *boldly* to the seizure, and discovered to my friends what had occasioned their consternation—laughter succeeded the reign of silence, my friends rallied them, begged them to take the child's gun and the marbles, as they might afford some amusement to Pitt and his friends in the Privy Council; and (agreeable to the children's phrase) enable them to continue their well known game of *pickers up*.

Notwithstanding this mortification, they continued their search, and despairing, at last, of finding any *pop-guns*, except *tin* ones, and having collected my papers together, they departed, feeling their dignity much hurt by the
ridicule

ridicule which my friends had so bounteously lavished upon them.

My apartment for the night was a bed room, through the iron grates of which whistled the wind and rain of a most tempestuous night. The next morning at seven o'clock I was taken to the *strong room* of the prison, under pretence that the keeper would speak to me there. Here I was refused the slight indulgence, (if such it can be called) of dressing myself decent, and was obliged to go through the streets, on a Sunday, in cloaths as dirty as the charcoal I had been using on my apprehension. The clerks of the Treasury stood gaping at me in this condition as if I was some curious animal; and it gave me pleasure to get rid of their impertinence by being introduced by Justice Ford into the council chamber, where the following scene and dialogue took place.

Examination before the Privy Council

OF

PAUL THOMAS LEMAITRE,

FIRST DAY.

(I was placed within a bar, the Chancellor seated on my left, Pitt next to him, the Duke of Portland, with others, facing me on the other side of the table, among whom was the Solicitor General standing, who unless interrupted, examined me; the Attorney General stood on my right, with Justice Ford and others behind.)

Q. Mr. Lemaitre, what is your name?—A. Lemaitre.

Q. Yes, but your christian name?—A. Paul Thomas.

Lord

Lord Chancellor. Mr. Lemaitre, I suppose you know on what account you have been brought here?—A. I do, if I can believe the information given by those called *Officers of Justice*, who apprehended me;—they said it was on a charge of a *highway robbery*.

Lord Chancellor. It is of much more serious nature, Mr. Lemaitre.—A. (*with indifference*) Well, I am ready to meet it.

Lord Chancellor. (*pretending as advice*) Mr. Lemaitre, it may be, perhaps, necessary to inform you, you are at liberty to refuse answering any questions relative to strangers.—A. I am as well convinced of that as relative to myself; *forced private interrogatories* are, in this country *illegal*.

Lord Chancellor. (*rather lowering his voice*) I did not know you was informed.—A. Yes I am.

Q. Where do you live?—A. No. 13, Denmark-street, Soho.

Q. What trade are you of?—A. Gold watch case maker.

Q. Are you in business for yourself?—A. No.

Q. Are you an apprentice?—No.

Q. What age are you?—A. Just eighteen.

Q. Where do you work?—A. At the same place where I live.

Q. Whom do you work with?—A. My cousin, Mrs. Ann Macaire, and Mr. Peter Desvignes.

Q. Is Mrs. Macaire an Englishwoman?—A. No; from Geneva, a small independent republic in Switzerland.

Q. Is Mr. Desvignes an Englishman?—A. Yes.

Q. Are you an Englishman?—A. Certainly.

Pitt. (*interrupting and seizing eagerly a small paper of preparations for the morning of execution, with an hymn for the occasion.*) What is this, Mr. Lemaitre?—A. (*putting it into his hand*) Only some preparations for the halter, at your service; I found them in the cell I was confined in.

Pitt.

Pitt. (immediately returning them into my hands) Oh, oh, oh.

Q. Have you ever been abroad?—A. No.

Q. Have you ever travelled?—A. Never farther than Richmond, and other small places about the same distance.

Q. You have never been farther?—A. Never.

Q. Are you a member of the *London Corresponding Society*?—A. (with some degree of warmth) Before I proceed I wish to know, whether persons in this country are to be seized, confined, and likewise starved. I have repeatedly requested something to eat, and have been as often refused. This ill usage I will not submit to, nor will I answer another word until I have something given me. At prison I was asked if I wished for breakfast, I told them I did, but telling them, likewise, that I could not immediately indemnify them, they instantly shut my door: in consequence of which I have now been twenty-three hours and a half without sustenance, eighteen of which were in your custody.

Justice Ford. This was not in any manner my fault, as I gave orders for every possible care to be taken of you.—

A. These directions they strictly followed, in as far as related to the prevention of escape, for they shut me up in a most dismal dungeon.

Lord Chancellor. Why if they had given you only the jail allowance it would have been better than nothing.—

A. They might have kept that to themselves, or not, as they pleased; for I am not used to such treatment, whatever you may imagine by my dirty appearance; but I was not permitted to clean myself.

Lord Chancellor. I do not mean to say you are to be kept upon that.—A. I hope not.

Lord Chancellor (to *Justice Ford*) Can any thing be had?

Justice Ford. Yes, my Lord.

Lord Chancellor. Let him go into your room.

I was

I was accordingly conducted into Ford's room, and a messenger was dispatched to fetch something. Upon my return to the council the examination was resumed.

Q. Are you a member of the London Cotresponding Society?—A. I must again refuse answering any questions until I see by what authority I have been brought here. I have not yet seen any other than that of pistols, and when I demanded, last night, a sight of my warrant, a pistol was put to my head, and my hands were bound. This usage for a question so reasonable, was more *brutal* than manly, and most *despotic* (*here there was an apparent indecision in the council, and a whisper from the Chancellor to Pitt*). I do declare I will not answer another word until you comply with my request.

Justice Ford. (in a whisper to the Chancellor.) Shall I shew it to him?

Lord Chancellor. (after consulting with Pitt.) Yes, yes, you may. *Ford then gave me the warrant.*

Lemaitre. (looking over the warrant and smiling, Pitt looking stedfastly at me) I am apprehended, I perceive, for "*Treasonable Practices*."

Att. Gen. Yes, Sir, you are.

Lemaitre. This warrant is insufficient for my arrest, my initials are not I. P.

Att. Gen. (looking over the warrant) That was not intended as an I, but a T, I suppose.

Lemaitre. (laughing) I know how to read myself; and even allowing it a T, for which I am sure it was never intended, my initials are not T. P. but P. T.

Pitt. (harshly, and with strong apparent impatience) That does not signify, Mr. Lemaitre, it was you we sent for, and you we want.

Lemaitre. It is not true, that it does not signify: the difference is very essential; but as an innocent mind does

not fear interrogation, and as I am the person you want, I am now satisfied, and am ready to answer.

Q. Mr. Lemaitre, will you just sign your name as you usually do, that we may see your initials?—A. I have no objection. (*I accordingly signed my name on a piece of paper they gave me, which was immediately handed round the table.*)

Q. Are you a member of the London Corresponding Society?—A. I am.

Q. Of division No. 2?—A. Yes.

Q. Are you a delegate of that division? (*the whole council gazing in my face, and waiting with much apparent anxiety and impatience for my answer.*)—A. I am.

Q. How long have you been a delegate?—Six months.

Q. What two quarters?—A. Yes.

Q. You was then re-elected?—A. Of course.

Q. Who was elected sub-delegate?—A. I do not recollect.

Q. Was it not Richter?—A. I think it was.

Q. How long have you been a member of the Society?—

A. About nine months.

Q. What is the office of delegate? to attend the committee, and report to the society?—A. Exactly.

Q. Do you remember reporting the General Meeting of the 14th of April?—A. I have an idea.

Q. Do you remember appointing a Committee of Correspondence? (at present termed the Executive Committee.)—A. I heard something of it.

Q. Do you remember reporting the letters read by Hardy in your committee, to and from the Society for Constitutional Information, for co-operation; and the committee appointing their members for the same?—A. I do not recollect.

Q. Do you know their names?—A. No.

Pitt. (*turning towards me with some appearance of anger and disappointment*) Why, Mr. Lemaitre, how astonishing all this is; you must have very little MEMORY?—A. Very little memory indeed.

Pitt.

Pitt. (*still angrily*) But it is almost *impossible* to forget it all so soon.—*A.* It is very possible.

Pitt. (*as before*) Do you then remember nothing of it?—*A.* I did not always attend.

Pitt. [*much vexed*] But did you never afterwards hear any thing of it, in any of your assemblies?—*A.* (*with indifference.*) I was very little inquisitive.

Q. Have you seen this? (*shewing a piece of paper of minutes of the committee.*)—*A.* I think I have.

Q. Is it your writing?—*A.* I think so.

Att. Gen. There is nothing in it which can cause you any trouble, that may induce you to decline.—*A.* I am perfectly *conscious* of that, if written by me.

Q. Do you know this? (*shewing a paper signed J. B. mentioning Bastilles, &c.*)—*A.* I think I do.

Q. Did you get it in the society?—*A.* No.

Q. How came you by it?—*A.* I found it in the passage of *Barnes's* coffee room.

Q. Did you never endeavour to discover the owner?—*A.* Yes, but ineffectually.

Q. Did you ever see this? (*shewing a paper in form of a motion forbidding any member to accuse another unless he had full and sufficient grounds for so doing.*)—*A.* I do not remember.

Q. Are you certain you never saw it?—*A.* I am neither certain one way nor another.

Q. Did you write this? (*shewing an apparent copy of the other.*)—*A.* I am not certain.

Q. But you ought to know, if ever you made any such motion?—*A.* I rather think I did.

Q. Then you think you wrote this?—*A.* It is very possible.

Q. This appears to be only a copy of the other, of course you saw that too?—*A.* It is very immaterial, perhaps I did.

Q. Do you know this? (*shewing a ticket for a supper on the 11th of August.*)—A. I think I do.

Q. Did you write this?—A. I think I did.

Q. You can say if you believe it your hand writing?—A. I do believe it is.

Q. What was that meeting for?—Was you there?—

A. Yes; it was simply a meeting of a few friends.

Q. Was it to celebrate any particular day?—A. No.

Q. It was not?—A. No, it was simply a convivial meeting.

(*I was now shewn several immaterial pieces of paper, supposed my hand writing, and asked questions as to my knowledge of several different persons.*)

Q. Do you know Upton?—A. By sight.

Q. Had you ever any correspondence with him?—A. I have sent him one letter.

Q. What was the purport of that letter?—A. Of a private nature.

Q. Cannot you inform us the purport of the letter?—

A. It is of no import to this board, and I chuse to decline.

Pitt. (*with some petulance.*) But it is very essential, Mr. Lemaitre, we should know it, what are the reasons?—Are you afraid?—A. No.

Pitt. Are you afraid for Upton?—A. No.

Pitt. (*with warmth*) What then is the reason of your being so obstinate?—A. I am not at liberty to satisfy you.

Q. Did you ever receive any letters from him?—A. Yes.

Q. How long ago?—A. About a month.

Q. Have you ever called on him?—A. Once accidentally.

Q. How long is it since you called upon him?—A. About two or three months since.

Q. It is rather astonishing you should call on a person without any knowledge of him before?—A. Passing through Bell Yard, (where he lived) and seeing a bill of subscriptions

tions for wives and children of persons confined by the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act, I called in, but did not go out with any such intent.

Q. Did you not *premeditate* calling upon him?—A. No, I did not.

Q. Was your stay long?—A. Near ten minutes.

Q. What was your conversation?—A. Quite indifferent and immaterial.

Q. Had you much correspondence together? Did you frequently write?—A. I received first a letter, I then sent an answer, and received his reply the same day.

Q. Do you know *Higgins*?—A. By sight.

Q. Do you know where he lives?—A. No.

Q. Do you know his profession?—A. No.

Q. Did you ever see him out of the society?—A. Never.

Q. Had you ever any correspondence with him?—
A. Never.

Q. You really say, that you never had any correspondence with him?—A. Not knowing where he lived I could not address him a line if I wished; nor were we sufficiently acquainted to require it.

Pitt. (observing stedfastly my face) You mean then, Mr. Lemaitre, to declare to this board, that you never had any notes or other papers between you?—A. I certainly declare there never was.

(Here followed an apparent consternation and confusion among the principal ACTORS, which was, however, happily relieved, shortly after, by an affiliating whisper.)

Q. Do you know *Smith* of Portsmouth-street?—A. Yes, as a member of the society, and one of whom I have frequently bought pamphlets, &c.

(Here followed questions and ANSWERS as before stated of Higgins.)

Q. Did you ever see this? *(shewing a BRASS TUBE about two feet long, and hollow.)*—A. *(looking through towards a blue ribbon)*

ribband APOSTATE.) No, never nothing resembling it in my life—but the world,—hollow and deceitful.

Q. You are certain you never saw any thing like it before?—A. Never.

Q. Did you ever see this? (*shewing a piece of wood about a foot long, the ends being turned smaller, resembling the roller of a jacktowel; with another part turned, and part square, like a chocolate stirrer.*) A. I never saw more of one, than the other.

Q. Are you certain of that!—A. Yes.

Q. Did you ever see this? (*shewing a letter addressed to Upton.*)—A. I think not.

Q. Is not this your hand writing?—A. It resembles it, but it is not my writing,

(*Two others were then shewn, one addressed to Higgins, and the other to Smith, with similar questions and answers. I was shewn the contents of a letter to Upton, mentioning these words, "Brass is not ready, nor poison prepared, but enough of that hereafter."*)

Q. Did you write that?—A. With regard to the forgery, it is well done, but I never wrote the letter, nor ever heard of such contents.

Q. You are sure you never sent this letter?—A. My letter to Upton was on a different subject, much longer than this, and on larger paper; but of no consequence to you.

Q. What subject could you have with a person with whom you are not intimate, which required your letter to be so long, and which is of so much importance that you will rather hurt or prejudice yourself, than disclose it!—

A. It was of a nature, it is true, that required some explanation, which caused its length; and although I don't know that you have not seiz'd it with my papers, (I mean the copy) yet, as I said before, it is of no consequence to you, and I will not break my past word by being the first

to

to disclose its contents.—unless at a more proper period, and in a fitter place.

Pitt. (with some warmth.) What do you mean, Mr. Lemaitre, by a more proper period?—A. I mean when a jury of my countrymen decides; for I suppose it will come to that, if you believe this *nonsense*.

(Here followed a pause of some length.)

Q. You mentioned sending a letter, how did you send it?—A. By a man, a stranger.

Q. How came you to send it by a person you did not know?—A. I met him at the bottom of Bell Yard, and gave him two-pence to take it.

Pitt. What was the reason of your not carrying it yourself, when so near?—A. If I answer this it will explain the contents.

(I was now shewn the contents of the other two letters of nearly the same purport as the former.)

Q. You say you never saw these letters before?—A. As I said, I never wrote to these men, but at the same time I acknowledge, and that without fear, that they do resemble my hand writing.

Q. You say they resemble your hand writing?—A. Yes, but it is not a novelty to see two hands alike, and I think I shall with satisfaction be able to prove the difference at a more proper period, and can only add, I never saw, heard, or in any manner knew, either directly or indirectly, any thing relative to any such subject, and am ready on oath to declare the same.

I did not at this time know that Upton was my accuser, and having promised not to mention either his letters, or behaviour, I preferred suffering that small prejudice I might in consequence lay under than disclose the subject of our correspondence, which were two challenges.

Ordered to withdraw.

Monday, Sept. 29.

SECOND DAY.

(I was placed as before, there were nearly the same number of persons present, with, however, the addition of a Woman. I had been introduced with two or three more, and was by her pointed out, she declaring "That's him, I saw him give the piece of wood (aforementioned) to Mr. Upton." I enquired if the lady was on oath, and being informed she was, I told her to observe me well before she gave so decided an answer; as she still persisted, I was going to put some questions to her, but was prevented by her being immediately ordered out. I then declared, I did not think I had seen the person before, except at the office, passing by a door where I was sitting, and she looked in. Unless it was the person who brought me the letter, and I thought her much taller, and not such a smart looking dame as this. Many questions were now asked, with the same answers as yesterday.)

Q. Did you ever see Upton out of the Society besides that once at his house?—A. Yes.

Q. Where did you see him?—A. I must decline answering this question.

Pitt. But, Mr. Lemaitre, it is very necessary we should be informed, for this declining leaves great suspicion.—

A. Your suspicions are entirely groundless, for it was a meeting no wise relative to concerns of the society; neither was it of a criminal nature.

Pitt. Then what can induce you to decline?—A. I only repeat, I chuse to decline.

Q. Was it at Pearce's?—A. (finding that Upton must already have acknowledged the meeting.) Yes.

Q. Who were there? only you three?—A. Yes, there were more.

Q. Who were they? (I returned no answer.)

Q. Was Groves there?—A. Yes.

Q. Was Brooks there?—A. Yes.

Q. Were there any more there?—No.

Q. What

Q. What was the meeting for?—A. Things quite indifferent.

Pitt (with warmth) But it is surprising you should meet so many on a subject of no importance. Was you accustomed to meet there together.—A. *(with indifference)* No, this was the first time.

Q. Was the meeting accidental.—A. Not entirely.

Q. Was it on account of some quarrel?—It is true there had been some difference.

Q. You had quarrelled with Upton?—A. Yes.

Q. He had sent you a letter?—A. Yes.

Q. Was that letter for an accommodation?—A. No.

Q. What then? A challenge?—A. Yes.

Q. And did you accept of it?—A. No.

Q. What then did you do?—A. I sent him an answer.

Q. To what purport?—A. Treating his conduct with that contempt and ridicule I thought he richly deserved?

Q. Did he reply?—A. Yes.

Q. Persisting in the challenge?—A. Yes.

Q. Then this meeting was for an accommodation?—A. Yes.

Q. And were you friends after this, as before?—A. We were never more intimate than other members of the Society.

Pitt. Was you most intimate before or after?—A. I never was intimate either before or after.

Q. Have you at present those letters you mentioned?—A. I don't know.

Q. Don't you know whether you kept them?—A. I don't know whether they have not been seized with the rest of my papers, or, as I never took much account of them, whether they have not been destroyed.

Q. Do you think you could procure them by sending?—A. No; if they were at home I suppose you would have

D

them

them with the rest of my papers. I suppose you have my letter to Upton?

Q. No, we have not; he says he wrote his reply on the back of your answer.—A. That's *false*, it was on another sheet of paper. My letter was on three sides completely filled up, the other, of course, reserved for the address.

Q. Are you certain of that, Mr. Lemaitre?—A. I shall be able to *prove* this, and I think if you press this point, Upton must likewise acknowledge it. But I beg you will not lose sight of this woman, for I am confident you will find her equivocating, on a further examination; and if you suppose her evidence, at present, worthy of credit, by a further questioning you will see through her designs, and the fallacy of all she has dared to advance.

(Ordered to withdraw.)

Justice Ford's Chambers.

I was requested by him in the name of the *Privy Council*, to recapitulate my former examination, and then sign it; and if I remembered more, or had answered any thing wrong, to remedy these errors, having more leisure to reflect. I said I had not the least objection, provided I was permitted to have a copy of the paper, signed, likewise, on his part, by himself. Mr. Ford said he would make known my demand to the *Privy Council*, and he afterwards informed me that *they would not* grant a copy. During my stay, I represented the *absurdity* and improbability of the plot; and asked him, whether himself or the council *seriously* believed the story. He declined any direct answer, but said they could not do otherwise than believe it, until it was properly cleared up. I expostulated on the infamy of Upton, and was ordered to withdraw.

THIRD DAY.

(Nearly as before.)

Q. Do you know Crosfeild?—A. I believe I have heard the name, but do not know the person.

Pitt. Do you mean to say, Mr. Lemaitre, you do not know him?—A. I do not only *mean*, but actually say it. I do not think I should know him if I was to see him.

I was now asked, separately, if I knew Beck, Bone, Hodgson, Palmer, Hill, Burks, Parkinson, the two spies Groves and Metcalf, and others; some of whom I knew by sight, but declined answering interrogatories which did not relate to myself. Questions being still put to me, I declared they would be useless, as my resolution was determined.

Q. Have you seen this? (shewing a paper, "Guillotine," &c.)—A. No.

Q. You never saw it?—A. Never.

Q. Have you seen this? (shewing a song, "The Rights of Man, addressed to the London Corresponding Society,"—A. No.

Q. You say you never have seen it?—A. Never.

Pitt. (*sharply.*) How can that be, there is the name of your society affixed to it?—A. (*shortly*) Very possible, and I yet know nothing of it.

Pitt. (*sharply still.*) What can that mean, I don't understand you?—A. (*shortly as before*) If you look over you will find.

Lord Chancellor. I see nothing particular in it.—A. Suppose any one, spy or another, chuses to write any song, and address it to a society, it still bears its name, although that society may be no ways concerned; which is the present case; it is *not printed by*, but *addressed to* the society?

Lord Chancellor. (*softly to Pitt.*) That's true.

Pitt.

Pitt. (*scratching his head.*) Oh!

Q. Did you ever see this? (*shewing a letter reprinted by the London Corresponding Society from T. Paine.*)—

A. No.

Q. Never?—A. Never.

The same questions and answers to two addresses of the above society, apparently just printed.

Q. How can this be; you are a member of the committee by whom these must have been as well drawn up, as ordered to be printed, and you still say you know nothing of it.—A. I say I know nothing of it, and that is the truth.

Q. Did you ever write any thing for the press?—A. No.

Q. You really never did write any pamphlets?—A. Never.

Lord Chancellor. (*with great meekness*) We do not enquire what you have written, but simply if you have written any?—A. I never have, because I have not sufficient abilities. I should wish to know, whether you still think me guilty, from evidence like what I have seen and heard?

Q. (*after some hesitation*) Why, Mr. Lemaitre, here's this Lady.—A. (*interrupting*) Lady! and do you actually believe one, whose character is nearly resembling Upton's.

Q. Do you know any thing of their characters?—Why I believe Upton is a character who has not been nice at firing his own house, for one instance; and, I believe this Lady nothing more than his "*soi-disant*" wife, at least.

Q. How do you know this? can you prove it?—A. Not in my present situation; but this far I know, his *infamy* is in every one's mouth, and if you will trouble yourselves to enquire, I have no doubt but you will be furnished with sufficient proof, as well concerning his character as her's, which I have been informed is equally abandoned.

Q. Well, there are then these letters, Mr. Lemaitre?—

A. (*laughing*) It is true they somewhat resemble my hand writing, but if this is the evidence you are to rely upon.—

Q. You

Q. You say they do resemble your hand writing?—

A. Yes; but I think I can prove the difference very satisfactorily, although I do not think it prudent to shew it now.

Pitt. What is the reason you will not shew it now?—

A. Because I do not know but you may then bring forward others still more resembling, at a future period.

I now mentioned the absurdity of supposing the plot was ever intended, at least that I was one of the conspirators; I ridiculed the idea of my being at the head of the same, as stated, and appealed to them, if they would not suppose that man, or set of men, out of their senses, who would so far rely upon a youth, whose minds are so seldom found of any stability; I said, I supposed they had chosen me on account of my superior experience, and concluded by observing, how readily and easily I had been apprehended, and the little fear I had in appearing to answer their interrogatories.

Pitt. For what reasons would you be alarmed by them?

—A. Had they been of my writing, your pressing them so closely must naturally have led me to suppose my designs discovered; and I will leave it to yourselves to determine, whether there were then no reasons for alarm: but a stranger to the whole of this nonsense, I laughed at the letters and their contents.

Pitt. (*finding how jocularly I treated his sapience, and pop-guns, immediately in anger said*) Mr. Lemaitre, we have a deal more against you as a violent man in the society, and from very respectable evidence.—A. (*looking carelessly, as frequently before, through the windows to an adjoining tennis court*) I believe you will find it equally so with Upton's, or rather a second edition of his works.

Pitt finding that such beings as himself had it not in their power to intimidate me, left off farther questioning, despairing of success,

Q. Do

Q. Do you remember a discourse you held with your father, near Temple Bar?—A. No.

Q. Is your father a member of the Corresponding Society?—A. No.

Q. Has he not visited it?—A. No.

Q. Did your father never go to any of your assemblies?—A. Never.

I now mentioned my surprise, that a man like Upton should be permitted to be at large, having just seen him walking in the Strand while I was in the hackney coach, and thus had it in his power, with a deal of ease, to concert other new, and similar diabolical projects; he was the first, I said, that they should seize and prosecute, and ourselves could be only as secondary objects. I then stated my hopes, that, although not naturally given to revenge, I should have an opportunity of prosecuting, and pilloring at least, that being who so falsely dared to dupe first, the public, and then that board, and lastly, to risk our lives, whose innocence he was so well acquainted with, if it could be called a risk, where such a villain was the accuser.

(During the time I was making these remarks, Sir Pepper Arden, and others, expressed their approbation by exclaiming "Very good, very good!" &c.

Lord Chancellor. Do you know any friend who can swear to your hand writing, remembering, if they swear against you they may be dangerous evidence?—A. Having no one who is a judge of writing, and knows my hand writing sufficiently, I must decline.

Pitt. Did you never write at home, keep books, or nothing that might give any one a sufficient knowledge of your hand as to know it again? Does not your father know your hand sufficiently?—A. No.

Pitt. Did you never write to him?—A. Living so near I had the pleasure of seeing him often, and had no occasion to write.

(Ordered to withdraw.)

Thus

Thus ended my examinations; and I shall now give a slight account of my *Treatment in Prison*.

I have mentioned the place I was confined in the first night. After this, for near a week, I lodged (on my return from the council) in the room of the clerk of the prison, and had a bed in the keeper's house, by orders from Justice Ford; but this same keeper being appointed Governor of the "House of Correction" as it is called, but which name I change, I believe very properly, to that of "British Bastille," and a general removal taking place of the different prisoners, I was likewise removed, and led to a place which, as I think, will, when described, justify the appellation I have given it.

This Bastille contains about five hundred different, and separate cells, composed of nothing but bricks and stones. Three oaken planks fixed in the wall, with a straw mat-trass (such as is used at street doors for cleaning the shoes) a blanket, and a rug were the only furniture; and iron grates were in lieu of windows. At the farther extremity of the goal, there are three rooms, as they are called, with the addition of a fire place; to the lower of these I was conducted, and was the first inhabitant; I found the walls as above stated, (excepting, indeed, an additional quantity of stones, and iron bars which crossed on all sides for security) and they had not even that plaister to disguise the sepulchral appearance which the gloomy prospect from the windows, of grates, walls, and adjoining cells, assisted in producing. The floor was entirely of stones, had not yet been cleansed from the dirt of the workmen, and oaken planks, on two massive pieces of the same materials raising them above a foot and a half from the ground, for bedstead, with a stove, were at present the only furniture.

With surprise I asked the keeper if this was the "*apartment*" in which he told me "*I should be comfortable*," he said "it was," and added that "it was fit for any gentleman."

I was

I was afterwards furnished with a chair, table, and bedding which were, I suppose, likewise imagined all the furniture a gentleman required; and Mr. Aris's friends, I conjecture, preferred the hands to the common method of taking up coals (which were carelessly laid down on the floor) with a shovel, and a bedstead so commodious as mine, to those having sacking and curtains:—I had the advantage of placing mine near the damp walls, unless, indeed, I wished my skull fractured by falling off each time I turned round. Thus was I (to make use of the keeper's words) "so comfortably situated as a Gentleman," that with the addition of guards, who, with a blunderbuss on their shoulders, were unceasingly locking and unlocking the massive doors, during the night, to see I was in no danger; that my situation suited the ideas of the poet:

"Like eastern kings a lazy state we keep,

"And close confin'd in our own palace sleep."

Confined in this manner, I applied for books, and was asked what books I wished permission to send for: finding by this I was to be straightened in my lectures; as well as my person, I requested permission for Rousseau's works, which, after some consideration, was granted. My parents had a general order for admittance to see me three times per week, and my cousin, Mrs. Macaire, obtained one to admit her twice. I had sent a request to see my parents, but this my father alone could attend to; the fact was, (of which I was not informed till long after her death) my mother, not knowing what was become of me, had gone to the house of Jealous, and with all the tenderness and anxiety of a parent for a child in my situation, enquired what they knew concerning me; but she was informed that "I was then in prison, from whence she
"should never expect me to remove, unless to proceed to
"the gallows, where I was sure to go, as Jealous himself
had

" had found the instrument upon me, with which I intended to kill the King."

The infamy of uttering such fallacious reports, cannot but revolt, not alone the feeling, but every honest heart; my mother collected sufficient fortitude to reach her home, but she had not enough to resist the shock: this was the occasion of a severe fit of sickness, which brought on the death of the tenderest of mothers.

The stay of my friends (I found by this first visit of my father's) was to be limited to a quarter of an hour, and seeing no one else, but the turnkey who brought in my provisions, I was nearly shut up from the world. In consequence of this I requested my friends to send me the public papers, but this the keeper refused, and in a manner which left no alternative than by an application to higher authority, I sent the following letter to Justice Ford.

" New House of Correction, Nov. 5, 1794.

" SIR,

" You having signified your wishes to accomodate me as well as the nature of my situation permitted, and the necessary precautions required.

" Hope you will find no impropriety in permitting me the use of the public newspapers, which has been denied me here, Mr. Aris having an exprefs order to let no prisoner have them - which order may be very necessary for the reclamation of felons, but trust you will find (I hope very shortly) such precautions unnecessary for me.

" Beg you will favor me with an exception to this—joined to those which the difference of my situation so necessarily required—if convenient, per bearer.

" You'll much oblige

" Your most obedient,

" P. T. LEMAITRE."

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And

And, in consequence, received the following answer, accompanied, from the Bastile office, with the papers my friends had previously sent.

"SIR,
 "I have received your letter of the 5th instant, in which you desire to have liberty to read the newspapers.—I assure you that I do not see any impropriety in your being so accommodated, especially as the prisoners committed to the Tower under the same species of warrant, and for the same offence, had that indulgence—but I remember, *that liberty was in consequence of an order from the Privy Council*; I have no power in this instance, as, *strictly speaking*, the Privy Council alone can grant your request.—I will take care that your wish shall be signified to their Lordships when they meet, and in the mean time I should think Mr. Aris might, without any risque, permit you to read them—

I am, Sir,
 "Your obedient &c. Servant,
 "Secretary of State's "RICH. FORD."
 "Nov. 7, 1794."

The next morning I began to peruse them, when I received the following letter;

"SIR,
 "After I wrote to you yesterday, I gave your letter, containing a desire to have the liberty of reading the newspapers, to Mr. Cottrell, the clerk of the Privy Council, and begged him to state your request to the Lords, and obtain their order for that purpose.—I have this morning received a note from that gentleman, in which he informs me that their Lordships *have not thought it proper to comply with your request*—it may be necessary to acquaint you, that any future application of a similar nature must be made to the

the Privy Council, as I have no authority whatever in respect to persons committed by that board.

"I am, Sir,

Secretary of State's Office; "Your obedt. humb. servt.

"Nov. 8. "RICH. FORD."

Mr. LEMAITRE:

This letter the keeper more readily obeyed, as I under-

stand I had hurt his pride by an application which entirely

set aside his despotic authority. In a very short time I

began to find myself much weakened from a want of exer-

cise; for although I was allowed to walk two hours per

day in a yard, it was seldom that I dared to profit by the

indulgence (as they termed it); for I could not go even

here without the usual ceremony of being locked in, and

therefore reduced to the necessity of staying where I had

once taken post, in defiance of the elements, and being at

too great a distance from the part inhabited to make any

one hear, it happened that I have remained in rain and cold

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 hours, and when unable, from the

small space, to keep myself warm by exercise, had the

mortification to see my fire extinguish, without being able

to prevent it.

Having suffered much from ill health in consequence of

this confinement, I wrote the following letter to the Privy

Council.

"MOST HONOURABLE LORDS;

"The extreme restrictions in which I am kept, deter-

mines me, at last, to address your Lordships for redress;

though supported till now by the most excellent of spirits

(that arising from an irreproachable conscience) I have re-

sisted my inclinations, expecting to hear every day some-

thing FAVOURABLE.—Which word, however, I beg may

not be wrongly understood—I mean not a discharge, by

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which our reputations will have no opportunity of being defended—but that *strict investigation* which is allowed by an *impartial trial*—by which our innocence may shew itself superior to our enemies, and guilt receive its rewards.

“Two months are now elapsed since I was brutally torn by men (having, however, nothing but their form to distinguish them) from my friends, who are naturally shocked at the diabolical, absurd, and infamous charges, so truly worthy of the inventor or inventors, being hardly able to credit so much daring dissimulation in one head—be it as it may, concerted or otherways, I demand nothing but a speedy opportunity of refuting it—and 'tis these hopes alone console them.

“Your Lordships informed me on my first examination, or rather before it, you was sorry to say the charge was of a serious nature—I answered, I was conscious of myself, and ready to answer any charges, and prove the infamy of any one who would dare to accuse me. I will have, however, less trouble and more satisfaction than I expected—his infamy is too notorious to be doubted, and the public will only have renewed what they were before well acquainted with.

“If I may believe your Lordships were sorry, (and I doubt the possibility of being otherways) I must naturally infer, the satisfaction will be greater on its being proved false, and if only *slightly suspected* (for the more I reflect, the more I am confident your Lordships cannot sincerely believe it) it must, then, be remembered, innocent individuals are kept from their friends, their families and business, on the mere accusation of a villain, who sought nothing but revenge, and, perhaps, interest.—My being detained from my business is of the more importance to me than to the others, as while they lose the profits, I likewise lose the advantages I was gaining by my attention—not being yet consummate in my knowledge thereof—this I believe,

lieve, from your Lordships characters, will be sufficient, were I not to suppose your public characters equally required a *speedy issue*.

“ In mean time, for the preservation of my health, I must beg my confinement may be less painful, and less strict; that I may have permission to walk within the exterior wall of my prison, being above thirty feet high, and having but one gate, which is constantly shut, believe there will be no fears entertained—the prisoners in the Tower having had the same liberty; and beg your Lordships will consider, youth requires even more exercise than another person—and I have been absolutely recommended, by the faculty, strong exercise, as the only preventative for a consumptive complaint for which I have some time past been attended, and which I again feel.

“ Likewise that my friends may have *free access*—that I may immediately know when the bill is preferred against me, which I trust will be very shortly, having anxiously expected to hear the same every day.

“ Beg likewise your Lordships will permit me the use of the public papers, which though I have well considered I cannot perceive any impropriety therein; and I believe the reason of their having been denied me, was rather from having misapplied, than from wishing to deprive me of the small satisfaction I may have in their perusal: not imagining them more dangerous for me, than for the prisoners in the tower.

“ As a part of my infamous charge is founded on forgery, must beg the immediate return of this; on which, as I trust your Lordships will instantly see the propriety, I will no farther comment.

“ Am extremely sorry having troubled your Lordships so long, but beg your Lordships will immediately consider

my confinement and health, with the different requests, for which I remain, in anxious expectation,

"Your Lordships most humble,

"And most obedient servant,

New House of Correction,

P. T. LEMAITRE."

Nov. 24, 1794. Third Month.

To the Lords of Privy Council.

And not knowing in what manner to address it to the clerk, as recommended by Mr. Ford, I enclosed it in another to that Gentleman as follows:

"SIR,

"Am extremely sorry being obliged to trouble you again, but not knowing how to get the inclosed remitted to the Privy Council, hope you will again indulge me with a remittal.

"At same time beg you will accept my most sincere acknowledgements for your late endeavours to procure me the public papers, for which, though fruitless, I hold myself in equal obligation.

"As you may often hear, and it is mentioned in the inclosed, my complaints of the *unwarrantable and brutal* proceedings on my apprehension, which I likewise mentioned on my first appearance before the Lords, beg leave to inform you at same time, though determined to expose them, I have here added the goodness and manly behaviour I have experienced from you since, my gratitude for which makes me assure you, and the public, I sincerely believe those proceedings were without your knowledge.

"As part of the diabolical charges of my infamous accusers is *founded on forgery*, beg the immediate return of this and my last—of which, as I am confident you will immediately perceive the justice and propriety, need no farther comment.

"Am

" Am almost ashamed to beg you will likewise favor me with the answer of the Lords to the inclosed as soon as possible, and remain for the same and all favors,

" Sir,

" Your most humble,

" and most obedient servant,

New House of Correction,

" P. T. LEMAITRE."

Nov. 24,—Third Month.

R. Ford, Esq.

Two days after this, the keeper came into my cave, and throwing a letter upon the table said, " I had mentioned untruths in my letter, and, had he observed them before, they should not have passed;" I told him I did not understand such language, nor his meaning; he was going away mumbling, that I had complained of a want of exercise, and that I might content myself, as I should not have any more; when I answered, that if that was an untruth, I could only add, that I never desired to speak more faithfully; I then looked at the letter as follows.

" SIR,

" I have received your letter of the 24th, together with your application to the Lords of the Privy Council, which I have delivered to the office belonging to that board, where it ought to have been originally directed—as soon as I obtain any answer I will forward it to you—in the interim, as you say your health has suffered much from the nature of your confinement, I have written to Mr. Aris to desire him to permit you to walk, every day, in the place you mention; and I have no doubt but that the Privy Council will continue that indulgence.

" With regard to "the unwarrantable and brutal proceedings on your apprehension;" by which I imagine you mean the behaviour of the persons who executed the Duke

Duke of Portland's warrant, I can only say, that if any such took place, they were entirely unauthorized by any directions from me, or any person connected with this office.

" I have enclosed the letter you sent me before—excepting during the time it was before the Privy Council, it has not been out of my possession.

" I am, Sir,

Secretary of State's Office,

Nov. 26, 1794.

" Your obedient servant,

" RICH. FORD."

To Mr. Lemaitre.

Having little doubts, but that the Privy Council would confirm the permission for walking where I had requested, I sent the turnkey to the keeper to acquaint him that I wished to walk out; but he quickly returned, having received the answer " Tell him he sha'nt go," and three days after this, the turnkey brought in the following letter.

" Sir,

" Enclosed I transmit you the petition which you sent to the Lords of the Privy Council, as well as the letter which I received from you, both of which you express a desire to have returned into your hands.

" I am directed to signify to you, that their Lordships have made enquiry of Mr. Aris, the keeper of the New House of Correction, respecting your accommodation, and the means which are allowed you for taking air and exercise, and, from his report, they are of opinion that you enjoy both those benefits in as great a degree as your situation renders possible.

" I am also to acquaint you, that their Lordships do not think it right to allow you the use of the newspapers, or to permit you to have an unlimited communication with your acquaintance; though, if there are any particular persons whom

whom you may have occasion to see, they will be ready to attend to any request you may, in future, make them upon that head. I beg the favor of you to make any future application, which you may wish to present to their Lordships, through the channel of the clerk of the Privy Council. I do this less to avoid any trouble to myself, than to put you in a way of more regular and direct communication with that board.

"I am, Sir,
Secretary of State's,
Nov. 29, 1794. "Your obedient servant,
"RICH. FORD."

To Mr. Lemaitre.

By this I found, submission must be the order of the day with me, as injustice was with ministers. The first time I saw the keeper, after this difference, was on Sunday the 7th of December, in the chapel, where I had regularly attended. Passing by him, in the way to my seat, he told me he had received complaints of my behaviour during the service: confident no such thing had occurred, and hurt at the mention of it before the prisoners, I begged that he would tell the persons, so complaining, to address themselves to me; the ill success of his malicious insinuations hurting his consequence, he threatened, that if I did not behave better, I should not return, which I immediately told him was very immaterial, and was ordered back to my cave.—I mention this circumstance for the better explanation of that treatment which I shortly after received from this man; comments will be unnecessary, and by describing it in as few words as I am able, I shall leave the rest to the generous feelings of a humane people.

Before a fortnight had elapsed from the time of my apprehension, grief had made too much progress to permit my mother to visit me; the loss of her peace of mind, had occasioned the subsequent and natural loss of her strength,

no consolation could be administered but by a speedy release from the anguish of suspense, which kept, without intermission, preying upon her spirits and health. My letter of Nov. 24, was calculated for that purpose, and gave some momentary hopes; but such was the love of justice in my persecutors, that these hopes were scarcely conceived than again lost, and consequently replaced by that anguish, which ended along with her life; for finding justice unattainable, that no reliance could be made on an oppressive ministry, she gave herself up to affliction; and although our prosecutors lost their object with regard to myself, yet were they too successful in their general views for destruction, in the person of my unfortunate mother.

On Saturday, the 20th of December, thirteen weeks after my apprehension, and four from having wrote and been refused trial by the Privy Council, my cousin called upon me. Enquiring concerning my mother's health, I was informed of these first fruits of the injustice of my oppressors; I believe it will be equally unnecessary as impracticable to describe my feelings on this occasion; but let the friends of mankind, I appeal not to the aristocracy, (whom I equally despise and detest) let the honest heart consider only for an instant, and he'll have some faint ideas of the agony of my mind:—convinced that she had fallen a victim to my detention, and that although I was not the immediate cause, that it was the affliction occasioned by the persecutions against me which had caused her death. During the stay of my cousin I was, but with difficulty, kept from sinking under the pressure of grief, which the clerk perceiving (for no one was permitted to see me until the keeper or his clerk was present) ordered another prisoner to stay and assist me on their departure, who not finding himself competent for the task, as I was then in strong fits, called in his comrade, neither of whom believed, from my falling from one fit into another, that I should
ever

ever recover, but that I should follow that mother I lamented, into eternity. The keeper was not, at that moment, within; but returning in a few minutes, the clerk informed him of the circumstance, and that he had left directions that I should be taken care of. This Being, now, without any consideration of the probable consequences, immediately sends orders "That I should be left alone, and the prisoners locked in their own apartment," which orders the turnkey was compelled to obey. The vigour of youth unexpectedly overcame every attack; and, being left seated in one corner of my cave, happily not very spacious, I soon crawled to my bed at the other end. The prisoners aforementioned had the room above me, and they had kindly resolved to stay with me during the night; these persons, as is frequently found, although prisoners for transgressing the laws, had more humanity than him to whose care they were entrusted, and did all they could, by mulling wine, &c. to repair the keeper's barbarity; and it is to their goodness I owe my present existence.

My cousin had promised to call the next day (Sunday) but, too anxious to wait until the afternoon, to know how I had passed the night, had requested, and obtained permission of Mr. Brian, the clerk, that her partner, Mr. Desvignes, should see me in the morning. This Aris, the keeper, refused; and, what is still more strange, not only was my cousin refused admittance this day, but likewise the four following days, and what she could learn at the gate concerning me, made her only the more anxious, suspecting that I was, possibly, worse than they chose to inform her. At last, to ascertain the real state of my health, an aged and afflicted father suffering himself, under a severe indisposition, was obliged to tear himself from the body of his deceased wife, before even the last rites could be paid, to be certain whether (as he expressed himself) "He had not to lament, at the same moment, the loss of a wife and a son."

As soon as I was at all recovered, I sent to the Privy Council the following letter.

“MY LORDS,

“ If I appear too importunate, I intreat you to reflect how severely my character has suffered, and continues to suffer, by the mystery in which it is involved; and I trust you will pardon an impatience which I can no longer restrain, to have the truth of the charges against me publicly investigated.

“ The alarm of my commitment, and the infamy attending it, were so universal, that I can scarcely hope, even from a public trial, that my innocence will ever be so generally published; I beg of you, however, that I may no longer be denied that redress, the hope of which has alone supported me under a complication of misfortunes hardly capable of addition.

“ Surely there has been time enough for your Lordships to discover what credit is due to the evidence of a notorious and abandoned villain, whose infamy you are better acquainted with than I am; and I should think there has been time enough to develop the absurdity of a pretended plot, which could never have entered the head of any but a madman. It is shameful so idle a charge, and such an accuser as Upton (whom I myself drove with shame from the Corresponding Society, the very night he pretends to have received his tube from me) should almost as effectually have destroyed me as actual guilt could have done.

“ It is now fifteen weeks he has enjoyed a triumph in the suspicions thrown on my character; he has confined me fifteen weeks from the sight of an unhappy mother, who I am told was lately buried. My Lords, I believe the agony of suspense has not served as a cordial to her, but I have still a father, an aged and weak man, I beseech you to have compassion on him.

“ I wish

" I wish not to speak of my personal sufferings, but the severity of the calumnies to which I am exposed, with the late irreparable losses which I lay under, will, I trust, excite the most weighty considerations from your Lordships: neither will I repeat the requests I lately made, and which were generally refused, except that of returning the letter by which they were conveyed, and the permission of seeing my friends, which was partially granted, the former request I must again repeat for the same reasons, and profit by the latter to beg your Lordships will give permission for Mr. Henry Richter to be admitted here to see me—the other requests (refused) which were to alleviate, in part, my solitary confinement, with the simple one of permission for the newspapers (for which refusal I have vainly endeavoured to conceive the reason) are now trivial circumstances and any partial alteration of them I shall not beg of your Lordships.

" I entreat that a speedy end may be put to the whole business, but I *desire* it may not be got rid of by any other means, than by a public trial—I think I have a right to demand this redress, from the laws of my country, and I ask it of your Lordships, to whom those laws, and the security of every man in the country is at present entrusted.

" I am, my Lords,

" Your Lordships' most obedient servant,

New House of Correction,

" P. T. LEMAITRE."

Jan. 9, 1795.

To the Honourable the Lords of the Privy Council.

To this letter no answer was returned, I therefore resolved I would no more apply to those, whose ears were shut to the calls of truth, and every humane sentiment, but await patiently that period, when ministers had no longer the power, or their own safety and existence would *not* permit them to continue our confinement.

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My health, by confinement and troubles, had much suffered; a pain in my side, occasioned by the situation of my bed near the damp walls, gave me great alarm, apprehending its fixing in that spot, the more, as it baffled every attempt of the Bastille Doctor to remove it; I knew the apartment on the third story was unoccupied, which, being elevated, was preferable to my cave on the ground floor. It had a boarded floor, and the walls were plaistered, neither did massive bars insult the eyes incessantly. I had requested, before the hard weather became very severe, to be removed to this place, which I had frequently repeated, and likewise for a bedstead, but without success. At last, having given up every idea of a removal, the keeper, shortly after my mother's death, informed me I was to have the situation I requested. This situation was pleasant, and had a prospect of the adjacent country, which, notwithstanding the severity of the season, was to me a considerable recreation, being able once more to see, although at a distance, my fellow citizens walking without the (visible) shackles of bondage.

I had permission from the Privy Council to send any letters to my friends after their having been inspected by the keeper, yet I learnt that several had not been received, and upon complaining of this, I was told, some were too ambiguous, with other excuses equally frivolous. One letter I had written a few days after my mother's death, to my cousin's partner, Mr. Desvignes, which, being of consequence, I had been particular in writing, was placed in the same list. I have mentioned the indisposition of my father; for six weeks since the death of my mother, except that once aforementioned, he had not been able to visit me, and my youngest sister, having several times applied, was but once admitted (by the clerk). The consequence was, that my linen, &c. being left at the gate, instead of being brought to me, was never after seen. My cousin was now
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the only person who could profit by the permission of the Council for admittance, but she was a fortnight, and three weeks (notwithstanding frequent application) by the keeper's neglect (wilful or not) without seeing me. These aggravating circumstances induced me to let him know I was not going quietly to submit to his impositions, I therefore sat down to a letter to acquaint my cousin that I should complain to the council, which I sent to the office to be forwarded, as follows:

" British Bastille, Feb. 7, 1795.

" DEAR COUSIN,

" My last designation from "The House of Affliction" allowed but one more step, and that step I have, I'll assure you, taken but with the utmost reluctance; but between affliction and a Bastille there can be no hesitation, as the existence of the one naturally portends the other at no great distance, and its existence can be no longer doubted when men can be iniquitously shut up, without even those hopes of a redress not refused even in the most barbarous ages.—As, however, the hour of the post is at no great distance, I must proceed to the subject of my letter:—I expected the pleasure of seeing you yesterday, but do suppose it was not convenient (as I conjecture you are no longer refused admittance on your fixed days) I wished then to beg you would inform my sister Couta I have no clean linen, and beg she would send it here to the gate, by my brother Thomas, to-morrow morning (Sunday) as soon as she pleases. I understand my sister Fanny has been here on Monday last, and could not gain admittance, she then said she would again call in a day or two, which, as I suppose, she has again done, and was again refused; I beg you will favor me with an enquiry, if you can conveniently, by Tuesday, (when I hope to see you) if she did actually apply again, and if refused, whether it was that she should

not

not be allowed admittance—which, however, I do not immediately suspect, as, by my unhappy father's indisposition, I should be thereby excluded all communication, but by letter, which I conjecture is not the wish of the Privy Council; of course I would desire an order immediately. Beg you will excuse the trouble, but other application would be useless, as you are now the only friend I can expect.

"I beg you will kindly remember me to all friends, particularly those enquiring.

"I am, dear Cousin,

"Your most affectionate and obedient,

Saturday Noon.

"P. T. LEMAITRE."

To Mrs. Macaire.

This letter my cousin informed me she had not received; I therefore sent for the keeper to come and explain his conduct, which he did on the 24th of February, and returning it said, he would throw it in the fire for half a farthing; I told him I believed he knew better than to do any such thing, and taking up the letter to Mr. Desvignes, aforementioned, (and which he now likewise returned me) I asked him, for what reasons he stopped it? This, after looking it all over, he could not resolve, and, putting it aside, wished to turn the subject of conversation; but as I would not be wantonly oppressed without an explanation, I urged the question, put the letter again into his hands, and demanded what excuse he could have for stopping a letter which I had been particularly careful should not be found objectionable. At last, after a diligent search, he gave for the sole reason my having denominated the place of my confinement "The House of Affliction." When I recollected the time of writing it, and considered that he himself well knew that grief had weakened me insomuch that I was then scarcely able to hold a pen, and that so

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innocent a description of the place, as I then felt it, should be objected to, and cause the detention of a letter; it awakened my anger, and with some degree of warmth I told him, I was surpris'd at his producing nothing better than a *frivolty* of that nature, and that I should certainly complain to the Privy Council of his behaviour and usage. Seeing my firmness he began to draw in, and assured me that my sister should be admitted, as well as my taylor, whom I had sent for to measure me for mourning, but who had several times applied in vain for admission; and (notwithstanding his assurances) he was *never* permitted to see me. Other circumstances are related in the following letter sent to the Privy Council shortly after this interview.

“ MY LORDS,

“ When I last wrote to you, it was under a severe sense of the injustice I had suffered; ruined in my reputation, because the public were to be amused by a plot, and suffering in my health, by a long and solitary confinement, because there had been no evidence found that could, with any decency, be brought into a court of justice; having every reason to believe that the cruel policy which had made me its victim, had deprived me of an unhappy mother, I became impatient, and demanded of your Lordships that redress I had a right to expect from the laws, for your Lordships had the laws in your own hands: you returned me no answer, and I determined to trouble you no more; but I am under the necessity of applying to you again. Upon complaining to Mr. Aris, the governor, that several of my letters had been detained till they were rendered of no use, and even kept back when I requested to have them returned to me, he delivered me two detained by him because I had ventured to sport with my mis-
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fortune, and given the place of my confinement a title which it is not my fault that it deserves; at the same time he informed me that my letters were stopped by magistrates visiting the prison, because their worships considered them a "pack of nonsense." When I appealed to your Lordships authority, and requested that your orders should be followed, you will be as much surprised as I was at the answer I received.—I was told, that if I behaved "amiss" I should be shut up in one of the cells of this prison, in which, if it is true that it was constructed on the plan of the benevolent Mr. Howard, he deserved to have rotted: these charitable dungeons, formed for the reformation of the vicious, are composed of bricks and stones, without fire, or any furniture but straw, and with no other barrier against the weather than iron grates. Not chusing to trust myself entirely to the humanity of a person who has once already (though in strict obedience to your Lordships directions for my solitary confinement) ordered me to be left alone when in violent fits upon the news of my unhappy mother's death, suffering me to fall out of one fit into another till my strength was exhausted. I request of your Lordships, as I am convinced you cannot believe me guilty of the crime charged against me, to prevent my confinement, close and wearisome as it is, from being rendered more irksome by insolent, unjust, and illegal menaces. I believe I shall but anticipate your Lordships humanity, by intreating more explicit orders concerning any letters I may have occasion to write, which I hope will be observed as strictly as those for excluding my friends, which have been so rigidly enforced, that, although my father has been confined by illness for six weeks, since my mother's death, and prevented from visiting me, my youngest sister could obtain admission but once, though she applied several time.

"I have

" I have only to entreat your Lordships to return this and the last of my letters, and remain, my Lords,

" Your Lordships most obedient servant,
New House of Correction, " P. T. LEMAITRE."
Mar. 10, 1795.—Twenty-fifth Week.

To the Lords of the Privy Council.

That the keeper should not again tell me " had he observed my letter he would not have permitted it to pass," I sent it, as usual, open to the office, to be forwarded as he thought proper; this was before noon, and at six o'clock the turnkey informed me he had orders " to remove me down to my former apartment." I had expected from the keeper a visit to prevent his character's being exposed; but not that he would act so cruelly. After having considered the order, at eight, I sent the following note.

" SIR,

" I am just informed, by one of your servants, you have given orders for my removal to the room I lately occupied; from which (after seven weeks consideration) I was removed to this, in which I am at present, on account of its having nothing but a stone floor. You know the constant ill state of my health while I was there, which my successor, Mr. Ross, likewise experienced, occasioned by its dampness. I must likewise inform you, I am not in a good state of health at present: if, however, it is your desire that I should remove, I beg you will let me know immediately from yourself—one word to that purpose, at the bottom of the present, will be sufficient, not wishing to trouble you to come here; but as you are alone responsible for my treatment whilst here, it is from you alone I shall receive my orders; if you recollect, I was before informed personally. I am, Sir,

" Your most obedient servant,
March 10, 1795. " P. T. LEMAITRE."

At half past ten I received a verbal confirmation of his former orders, and was once more interred in my sepulchral lodgings.

The difficulty of admission being so great, my father applied to Mr. Ford to obtain an order for my sister, who had more leisure, and could, therefore, the better sacrifice three or four hours to the very frequent, and ineffectual applications, to which the keeper's ill nature compelled them to submit.

This he obtained, and she came, accordingly with my cousin (who had been previously refused four times). To this order Aris could not refuse a compliance, but enraged at the order thus obtained, he gave orders that they should stay no longer than *five minutes* precisely. My cousin wished to apply, personally, to the Council for redress, but I told her I would write to Mr. Ford, which I did the next day as follows.

“ SIR,

“ If I attempt to intrude again, and request any interference which may still remain in your power, it is from a confidence that your humanity (however unseconded) will excuse the trouble I may occasion, by my presenting my present situation to your attention; and I shall forbear relating my own feelings, as I trust they will exceed your's, only by being the immediate sufferer.

“ My last to the Privy Council, respecting that treatment which I believe no one has attempted to refute or deny, might perhaps have been longer, had I suspected there was not sufficient to excite their immediate attention. That same evening I was ordered to re-occupy an apartment, which had before severely affected my health, equally with that of my successor, who actually kept his bed in consequence. I should have begged that gentleman belonging to your office, I lately saw through my windows,

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to have troubled you with this report, but I did not instantly recollect him: I am now still more distressed as my friends, possessing orders from their Lordships, are continually complaining of their inutility, never getting admittance until the third or fourth application; and yesterday, it being my cousin's fourth time, she, with my sister, was ordered to stay no longer than five minutes precisely. I instantly declared, notwithstanding my former ill success, I would again apply to their Lordships to request their orders might be enforced, but my sister informed me it was the particular desire of my father I should not. I am therefore, obliged to entreat that influence which your goodness assures me will not be neglected; likewise the return of the present when convenient.

"I remain, Sir,

New House of Correction, "Your most obedient servant,
April 8, 1795—Twenty-ninth Week. "P. T. LEMAITRE."

R. Ford, Esq.

Mark the continued effrontery of this Aris; well knowing what degree of criminalty would attach to himself, he threw the letter into his desk ((immediately after its perusal) and exclaimed "There, Lemaitre, that is the manner in which your letter shall be forwarded to the Secretary of State's." I depend not upon one individual alone for the veracity of this information, (which I did not obtain till after my liberation) but the manner in which the clerk assured me it had been sent, gave rise to doubts, which the following letter only assisted in confirming.

"*Whiethall, April 25, 1795.*

"SIR,

"I have received the enclosed papers from the Clerk of the Privy Council, to whom I gave them, by your desire, as soon as you sent them to me.—As I have not had any
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directions respecting them, I conclude, that whatever determination their Lordships have come to in the matter, you have already been made acquainted with. I now return them to you, as I perceive you expressed a wish that they should not remain out of your hands longer than it was necessary.

“ I am, Sir,

“ Your obedient servant,

“ R. CH. FORD.”

To Mr. Lemaitre.

With this letter I received, as therein mentioned, my two last letters to the Privy Council; but the total silence of Mr. Ford clearly shews there could be no knowledge of my letter of the 8th instant.

Two days after this, I saw my father, who, with joy in his countenance, told me he had “ good news at last.” I enquired his meaning, when he informed me, that having met Mr. Ford by accident, he had told my father he was the person he was seeking, and that if he would call upon me, and obtain an application to the Privy Council for liberation on bail, he had no doubt of my success. That this should the better take me at a nonplus and bring me over to their views before I could see through their artifice, my father is likewise told, that “ if he has not the same at the Treasury within the space of two hours, it would be of no service;” although, as I remarked, if he had not thus accidentally seen him, more than two hours must necessarily have elapsed, supposing him then in the very act of calling upon my father for the purpose of informing him. I will not, however, assert that Mr. Ford himself was the author of this scheme, for I believe it came from the Council, and Pitt as the Prime Minister, Mr. Ford acted, in his place, with as much humanity and real honesty, as he possibly could, considering his connections.

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In this information I saw none of that excellence my father so readily imagined ; I was afraid, that as the Privy Council had, by our confinement, served their turn, and supposed, perhaps, our patriotism somewhat abated, that they only wished now to get rid of us in as quiet a manner as possible, and that all hopes of a public investigation, and any opportunity of defending my character by public trial would be naturally, by this means, avoided ; and therefore refused a compliance with the request of my father, at least until I should have obtained better advice than my own solitary judgment could afford me ; nor could my father persuade me to comply, until after an hour's entreaty, or rather orders, for at last his impatience became so strong that he actually commanded me, and I sent the following letter :

“ MY LORDS,

“ There is now six weeks since I last troubled your Lordships with any request. Until the return of my two last letters, on Saturday, I still entertained hopes of an answer somewhat more satisfactory than those I had hitherto obtained. These having been returned without any, my health still suffering as severely as before, and imagining your Lordships have certainly forgot the length of time I have been in confinement, makes me resolve on an importunity, otherways contrary to my inclination, by laying my case again before your Lordships. Apprehended on the 27th of September, 1794, I have, uninterruptedly, continued declining, since that period, in consequence, severely weakened ; which, with an apparent settled complaint in my side, giving me severe apprehensions, I must again beg your Lordships consideration, and either to be put upon a speedy trial, or be admitted to bail. I have
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only to entreat, likewise, the return of the present, and remain, my Lords,

House of Correction,

April 28, 1795.

"Your obedient humble servant,

"P. T. LEMAITRE."

To the Lords of the Privy Council.

And six days after the above I received the following answer:

"Whitehall, May 3, 1795.

"SIR,

"I have submitted to the Lords of his Majesty's Privy Council your application of the 29th of April last, in which you desire permission to be released upon bail, or brought to a speedy trial for the charge for which you are now in confinement; and I am directed by their Lordships to signify to you that, as you cannot be immediately tried, they do not think it improper that you should be bailed upon entering into a recognizance of £200 yourself, with two sureties in £50 each, for your personal appearance, to answer such indictment as may be found against you on account of such charge.

"I am, Sir,

"Your obedient humble servant,

"RICH. FORD."

Mr. P. T. Lemaitre.

When I returned the following reply the same day:

"MY LORDS,

"I have been acquainted, by a letter of Mr. Ford of the 2nd of May, of your Lordships acceptance of my last application for liberation on bail, on condition of giving sureties for my future appearance, myself in £200, and

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two of £50 each, which I accept, and am ready to attend your Lordships pleasure when the same shall be convenient,

"I am,

May 2, 1795:

"Your most obedient servant,

"P. T. LEMAITRE."

The Thursday following this, a discharge was sent and shewn to me by the keeper, but it was not until the Saturday evening that I was finally discharged, when I was taken before Justice Lawrence, at Serjeant's Inn, and there, on the 9th day of May, 1795 (just two and thirty weeks from my apprehension) did I; after paying one guinea and half-a-crown, (which the keeper demanded for serving the Habeas) return again to my anxious friends.

Restored again to society, to my relations and friends, the scenes, in which I had been so material a sufferer, seemed to me like a dream. I could scarce believe, when sitting at my place in the work-shop, that I had been taken from that very work-shop, carried before the Privy Council, and examined by a set of men supposed, from their stations, to be much superior in wisdom to their neighbours; that, after this, I had been confined in dismal cells, been subject to the tyranny of a jailer, and charged with the guilt of High Treason. All this appeared like a tale in the Arabian Nights. I was to have killed the King with a poisoned arrow. Fools! What poison have we efficacious enough for this purpose? What chance could I have of taking aim at the person of the first magistrate? What end could it answer to take away his life? George the Fourth would have succeeded George the Third: and feeling as great detestation as any person at the idea of assassinating a fellow creature, I know not of any motive

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to induce me to drive the sovereign from his throne before his time.

Yet this idle tale, if not invented by the ministry, was supposed by it credible; and industriously propagated throughout the nation. Convinced by the authority which supported this silly tale, a Divine expressed his sorrow to my cousins, that so wicked a being as myself should be born in his parish: and thus without proof, and without a trial, have I been stigmatized by all the arts, which a cowardly minister or venal newspapers could devise.

Yet what end could all this parade of examinations and imprisonments answer? I see only one way to account for them. If a young man, under twenty, could harbour the design of killing the King, what a shocking age must we live in! Mr. Pitt had asserted that there was a plot in the country to overturn the state. There were people to believe him. He had established the reign of confidence, and the reign of terror. How much were both increased when it was known that he sat in council on the supposed assassin! Much allowance must be made, certainly, for the multitude which believes; for it cannot conceive that men high in office should form a deliberate plan to deceive a nation, or give their sanction to one eminently absurd, and formed by others, their inferiors in rank and abilities. These things cannot be conceived by people in general: but I, who have been before these great men, who have heard their questions, and seen their countenances, I can believe all this and much more. I can believe, that the man, who was petulant, fierce, overbearing, insolent in examining the Case Maker taken from his furnace; would be only a bully in his negotiations with inferior courts or the dupe of every power, which gratified his pride by a pretended acquiescence in his ill-concerted measures.

But let us suppose for a moment, that Upton was the inventor of this plot. What are the circumstances related

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to the Privy Council, which could connect our names together? We were both members of the Corresponding Societies, had from certain occurrences in them a violent dispute together, which was carried so far on his side, that he sent me a challenge. Not having those ideas of honour, which people who pretend to rank, and fashion, and liberality, and gentlemanship, are, I understand, required to possess, not having that principle of honour, which leads them to cut their neighbour's throat for a trifling offence, when they do not scruple to ruin their tradesmen by a refusal to pay their just debts, I looked upon Upton as worthy only to hold a place with Burke and his knights of chivalry, laughed at his challenge and treated him with the contempt which his conduct deserved. Yet such was the man, with whom I was supposed to be connected: and of his character, and the proceedings of the Corresponding Societies against him, the ministry could not be ignorant.

The proceedings were grounded on the following circumstances. In consequence of the number of persons apprehended in May 1794, under the accursed system of *espionage*, established to the disgrace of Englishmen in this country, a subscription was opened by the Corresponding Societies for their widows and children. Among the persons appointed to receive subscriptions was Upton: but soon after his appointment, the Executive Committee learned, that he had been indicted for setting his own house on fire in order to defraud the insurance office. The committee thought it necessary to make some enquiries on this transaction, and in consequence of them to send him the following note:

“ The committee are sorry to acquaint Mr. Upton that the publication of his name as one of the receivers of subscriptions, has given occasion for some injurious reports, relative to a fire which happened some time ago in

Cold Bath Fields, and however unwilling they themselves may be to give any credit to such reports, yet they think the interests of those families for whom the subscription is raised, require that his name should be omitted in the future bills; and as this will naturally excite some enquiries, by which Mr. Upton, however innocent, may be liable to receive injury; they think it will be prudent in him to withdraw his name from the society."

This note enraged him to a great degree, and to find out the members of this committee, he wrote an anonymous letter to the General Committee, in hopes that it might bring up some person of the Inferior Committee, who alone could understand the tenor of the letter, and might, from his mode of explaining, discover himself to be a member. This letter was read, and after a considerable pause, a member arose and said:

"He should be sorry to see any of their time longer wasted, as he believed it in his power to explode the mystery, and relieve their anxiety;" he said "If he was not mistaken, the writer was then in the room, and as he doubted not but he could explain the reasons for so writing, there remained, likewise, but little doubt, but that he would have honor and integrity enough to acknowledge whether he had actually written it."

The cry of "name him" made him again rise; he said "The two o's conjoined constituted an 8, Yard or *Alley* was of small import, and as bell was often styled *tell-tale*, it required only the addition of Temple-Bar in lieu of Postern Gate, the signature was still easier explained;" he therefore believed, "Pasquin, No. oo, Tell-tale Alley, Postern Gate," was intended as "Upton, No. 8, Bell-Yard, Temple Bar." Upton was now asked whether he was the writer, and in a contemptuous manner replied in the affirmative. Higgins moved his censure, which I seconded and supported; declaring his behaviour could be compared

compared to nothing better than a *vile assassin*, who not daring to meet his adversary openly, took this secret and base manner of stabbing him in the dark. This, with the following reflection, I call him "*that man*" for he does not deserve the name of "*Citizen*," put him in a violent rage, and rising he began to justify his conduct by reading a part of the afore-mentioned letter of dismissal from the Executive Committee; taking care to avoid mentioning that part relative to the report which had occasioned the same; and although the committee frequently called for the whole of the letter, he still obstinately refused to shew it. His answer to my comparison of his behaviour was by making use of the most injurious terms, "fellow, wretch," and "blackguard:" in fact, his countenance behaviour and language gave him more the appearance of a madman, than of one who but so lately had kept the most profound silence. His personal attacks on myself induced me to rise to reply. I assured the committee I believed the subject of his anger was the more painful to him, as it was a subject which his honor would not permit him to investigate. Were it *false*, as he affirmed, he certainly would not avoid even the most strict enquiries, when the censure must naturally fall upon the original aggressors. Were sufficient cause and foundation wanting, his insolence in attacking the other branches of the society, when he had complaints (as he styled them) only against one, and in such an unmanly manner, appeared to me fully sufficient to deserve *censure*. The outrageous defence he had made rather inclined me to support the question more eagerly. The whole committee appeared equally sensible of his insolent and unjust attacks; but the unruly conduct of Upton prevented many from delivering their sentiments which he justly suspected were not much to his credit. The committee being unanimous against him, to avoid the disgrace of hearing his own censure, he was drawing towards

wards the door, when Higgins rose to inform the committee that if they were about to censure Upton, they must be quick, as he appeared to be "hopping off." Chagrined at his designs being discovered, his mortification was considerably increased at Higgins's mode of expressing himself, "you wretch," said Upton, "that is a reflection upon my natural infirmities, and you and more shall repent of it before many weeks are over." Higgins replied, "that if he was to retort upon him his own language, he would tell him *he lied*," but he would only say he did not speak with the intentions imputed to him. Higgins was called *to order* and asked pardon for having unwarily entered into what might be construed as personalities. The question for Upton's censure being now put, and carried nearly unanimously, Upton again arose, and reflecting upon the apology of Higgins, turned towards me and said "he never could or *would* rest satisfied until he had *revenged himself on Lemaitre*, and obtained satisfaction for the insult he had occasioned." Hearing which I gave him my address, told him I was ever ready to answer for my conduct to any man or set of men. That it was plain I was not as he was, *led away by my anger and passion*, and that although Higgins had apologised *I would not*; having acted in the same consistent manner I ever would on similar occasions; and should ever strive to prove the *dangerous tendency* of anonymous letters to society in general, by whom they were *as justly as generally reprobated*; and concluded by observing, if this would satisfy him, I never had any the most remote intentions to do as he had done to me, to give any personal insult, but my intentions were confined solely to reprobate his behaviour, which certainly deserved rebuke, if not execration. As Upton continued still unruly, a member moved his expulsion from the society, which I likewise seconded, but it being represented that a little reflection might

might give him a proper sense of his conduct, this motion was withdrawn.

This dispute produced the challenge in a letter from Upton; and on my laughing at this childish mode of settling it, he threatened to post me as a coward, and I assured some persons from whom he learned my expressions, that if he dared to open his lips in any manner injurious to my reputation, I would immediately publish the whole proceedings and rely upon them for my justification. One of the persons with whom Upton was more particularly acquainted, requested me to come to an accommodation if he could bring it about. I replied, that if Upton chose to let the whole drop without further notice, the same consistent silence should be observed on my part; but that I never desired to see him more. However I was requested to meet him the night after, and at this meeting it was proposed by the company that I should say, "If I had insulted Upton personally, I was sorry for having so acted:" that Upton should in like manner say, "I am sorry for having sent the letters in question." To this proposal, since there was a positive satisfaction on his part, and I had never the least intention of insulting his person, I readily agreed, and on Upton's complying with the same, we shook hands, and agreed that the matter should be buried in oblivion.

In conversation Upton shewed me a written motion, to confine the accusation of any member of the society to *direct proofs*, (mentioned on my examination) and having obtained my approbation of it, requested me to propose it. I told him he could make it equally with myself, but on his alledging that possibly it would come with more weight from me, I agreed. On separation we shook hands again and I should have been well content with keeping silence on this transaction, if the examination before the Privy Council had not rendered this statement necessary.

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An intimacy could not be expected to take place between such opposite characters as Upton and myself. I knew him before only as a member of the society, and his conduct in it did not lead me to form a good opinion of him. Our dispute arose from transactions in the society, and in dropping it I expected to have no farther concern with him than the affairs of the society required; but I found that the arrow still rankled in his mind, and on the next meeting of the division perceived that he was determined on opposing me in every measure.

The next committee evening a motion was sent for again censuring Upton for seeking to destroy the confidence of the society in their Executive Committee. As he was not present, I moved the adjournment of the question, giving notice that I should oppose it, as I believed the substance was included in the first censure passed upon him. It was in consequence adjourned, but Upton being present on the next evening, I moved *the order of the day* for Upton's censure, upon which he rose with great warmth, reprobated the question, and throwing out several severe reflections upon me, I called him to order, begged he would defer his observations until he heard whether the question would be supported, which I much doubted. The question was afterwards got rid of without any debate.

His anger had been very visible on the former occasion, but it was nothing comparable with that displayed on the meeting of the committee of September 25th, when I accused Metcalf the spy; and, on my motion, a deputation of four was appointed to enquire concerning the characters of this man and Groves. My accusation, motions, and general proceedings of this evening mostly concerning *spies and informers* met with the continued and warmest opposition from Upton.

A short time after, this discovered what he had in his mind, and his intimacy with Groves the spy, and conduct
before

before the Privy Council clearly announce him to have been among the number of those men, whom Mr. Pitt thought necessary to intrude into our society, by way of thwarting its good intentions. What can spies possibly discover in the Corresponding Societies? We have announced to the world the whole object and design of our meetings. The end which we wish to obtain is Universal Suffrage and Annual Parliaments. The former because as every man is under the necessity of paying some part of the taxation, he ought also to have some share in the choice of the representatives. Where persons represent only a part of the people, they will consult only the interest of a part of the people: where they represent the nation, they will consult the good of the nation, not that of a few mercenary individuals. Representatives are but men, and some may be guilty of betraying their trusts. Frequent elections will be therefore necessary both to remove the temptation of swerving from his duty as the representative, and to give the people an opportunity of selecting those men who are best qualified to manage their concerns. These are plain truths at one time embraced by men of the greatest distinction in this country, and rejected by them only when they had some base purposes to answer. The intention of the society is to diffuse them to the utmost of its power; and to the utmost of my power will I co-operate, heart and soul, with its endeavours. But I will not assassinate a king or a beggar to promote these ends. By firmness, resolution, and prudence we shall gain our points: the people will learn the folly of taking bribes from infamous members of parliament, as it is only to take money with one hand, and to pay away twice as much with the other. Each man will see, that a bribe once in seven years will not pay his share of the taxes for those years; and he will ever see the folly and wickedness of trusting the concerns of a nation with any one, who enters on his trust by

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corrupting

corrupting the morals of his constituents. He will see that on the present system the honest, the industrious, and the frugal are made to pay for the profligate, the idle and the extravagant.

The steady purpose of my soul is not at all affected by my imprisonment, and every member of the Corresponding Societies, and every reader of this narrative will, I hope, be led to examine, to the utmost, the grounds of my determination; and prepare himself to act, if called upon, in the same manner. Let us shew the hirelings of a profligate administration, that, if great men, noble personages, high born politicians can chop and change about at random to get a ribband, a pension, a place, or a title, we of the Swinish Multitude have still some principles left in us; that we can act for the public good without their mean and mercenary motives; that to honest men spies are no terror, to brave men, dungeons no controul; that we have only one purpose in view, to obtain our rights, the freedom of election and annual parliaments; and that in pursuing these rights we are not instigated by a spirit of faction, but a true desire to serve the best interests of our country. When liberty is established on this basis, we shall hear no more of espionage, of idle alarms, of imaginary plots to overthrow the state or to kill the king; one part of the country will not be set on like bull-dogs to worry to death the other; we shall be one nation intent on securing to each man the uncontrouled exercise of his abilities and industry; and instead of interfering in the private concerns of other countries, and wasting the blood and treasures of our own in foolish schemes of ambition, by which a few only are benefited, we shall learn to set a due value on our own rights, to respect those of our neighbours; we shall be in reality, what it is contended we ought to be by our constitution—A FREE AND HAPPY PEOPLE.

APPENDIX.

IT had been my intention to insert in the preceding narrative, the examinations, &c. of CITIZEN BONE, one of those friends who had voluntarily attended the Privy Council and requested to be examined upon OATH in our behalf, at the time of our apprehension, respecting the enmity which was manifested on every occasion by Upton towards me and my fellow sufferers, with other particulars. I had requested of him to write out the same, but I found on receiving the parcel, that in lieu of enquiring into the circumstances attending the plot we had been charged with, the Privy Council (to make use of his own remarks upon them) “ apparently abandoned the probability of the “ scheme, and applied the whole of their attention to the “ general concerns of the Corresponding Society,” and this so minutely that I found it impracticable to insert it in so confined a space. I shall, however, insert the letter to which the same was annexed, in proof of the general tendency of the whole. I likewise wished to give the copy of the Commitment and Discharge, but the laws being suspended at the time of my apprehension, I could only *request* copies as a *favor*, which otherwise I should have *demand*ed as a *right*; and although frequent applications were made, the jailer constantly put off the persons I sent as well as myself, from the time I had the discharge of the Council to the present day, for he that has power to refuse or deny, seldom is found wanting in dispositions to enforce that right they are generally unqualified to hold—how careful should men be at all times how they resign those rights into the hands of any one, or set of men, which they may have the most distant prospect of once wishing to enjoy.

Weston

" *Weston-street, October 10, 1795.*

DEAR CITIZEN,

" I acknowledge the propriety of your opinion, " that
 " if my examination was not to appear, the public would
 " argue from its suppression that it would militate against
 " you." I assure you if this idea had suggested itself to me
 I would not have troubled you to make a second application.
 My own opinion was that it would be too long and tedious
 to present to the public, I was therefore rather unwilling
 to prepare it; but I now see the necessity of putting them
 in possession of every possible information, and the justice
 of publishing whatever may have the most distant tendency
 of clearing up and exposing that infernal ministerial scheme
 now very properly called *the Pop-gun Plot*; and I therefore
 comply with your request with the greatest pleasure.

" Your's sincerely,

" **JOHN BONE.**"

THE END.

